

# WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

## FOR NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

### May 2003



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Workforce Development  
Local Workforce Planning Section

#### Mixed signals in April

The national unemployment rate has been falling since December, but its descent has been slower than the typical spring descent. Except in December and August, **Wisconsin** has reported unemployment rates 1.2 percent to 1.4 percent higher than typical for each month since April 2002. Comparing this April to last, the states heaviest 1-year losses have been in construction (? 8,900 jobs) and manufacturing. (? 10,500 jobs).

For the fourth month in a row, **Adams County** reports a lower unemployment rate than is typical. Whether comparing this April to this March or comparing it to last April, the strongest gains have been in construction, trade, and leisure & hospitality. Small gains in information, professional, business & other services still leave the sector down 80 jobs (20%) from last April.

After spending several months above its typical unemployment rate, **Forest County** has been slightly below its typical rates for two months. Construction added more jobs in April than any other sector, but has no more jobs than it did last April. Although they added jobs this month, the leisure & hospitality and education & health services sectors both report fewer jobs than they did last April.

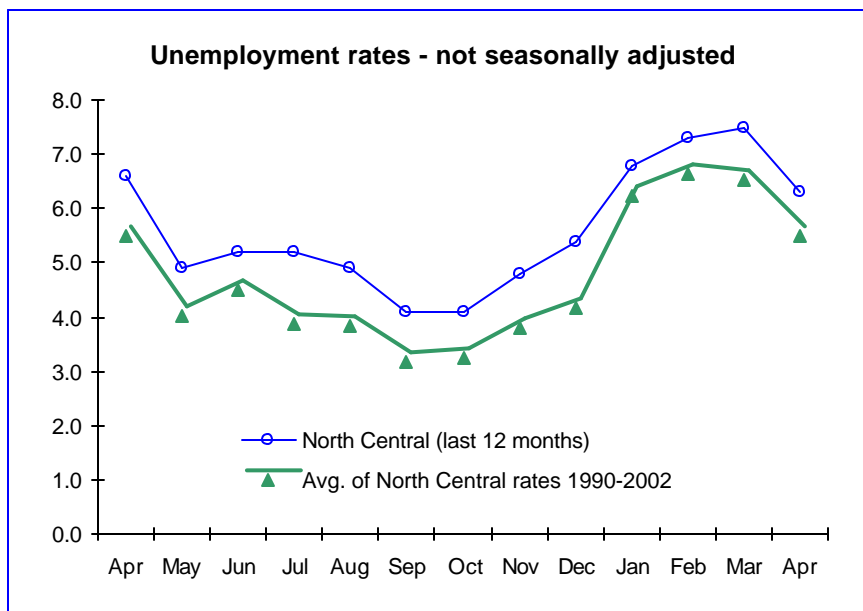
The unemployment rate in **Lanlade County** did not fall as fast as it usually does in April. Manufacturing and construction were among the leading job creation sectors when comparing March to April, but neither sector has added many jobs when comparing this April to last April. Only information, professional, business & other services scores well on both the one-month measure and the one-year measure.

In the last two months the gap between **Lincoln County's** current unemployment rate and the typical rates has been higher than at any time in the last year. The trade sector added jobs from March to April, but still stands below last April's mark. April-to-April gains in leisure & hospitality were smaller than April-to-April losses in manufacturing.

In **Marathon County**, unemployment rates remain much closer to their typical levels than elsewhere in the North Central area. Construction employment in April was above its March level, but below last April's level. Stability and moderate growth in manufacturing are more exceptional in Wisconsin. Wholesale gains and retail losses show up in one-month and one-year comparisons.

Since November, the gap between current unemployment rates and typical rates has been falling in **Oneida County**. Over the last year, job losses have been concentrated in manufacturing and trade sectors while job gains have been mostly in construction and leisure & hospitality.

**Portage County** March-to-April job gains in construction and in leisure & hospitality were large enough to mask losses in government, manufacturing and information, professional, business & other services. Construction was slightly below April 2002 levels and trade was well below, while leisure & hospitality was well above.



After spiking in November, the gap between current unemployment rates and typical rates in **Vilas County** appears to be moderating. Job gains in construction and trade may be largely seasonal, but losses in leisure & hospitality seem somewhat out of place. Comparing this April to last, leisure & hospitality still leads private sector job growth, and the information, professional, business & other services sector accounts for most of the job losses.

Recovering from spikes in June and December, the gap between current unemployment rates and typical rates in **Wood County** seems to be holding steady. March-to-April gains in construction are largely seasonal (and not enough to bring construction up to last April's levels), but leisure & hospitality gains from last April to this April are second only to education & health services. Manufacturing leads one-year job losses.

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## Employment by industry estimates - not seasonally adjusted

	Wisconsin			Adams			Forest			Langlade			Lincoln					
	Apr 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Apr 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Apr 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Apr 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Apr 2003	1-month change	1-year change			
Total jobs, all indstries*	2,765,100	25,500	-500	4,200	220	160	3,300	80	20	3,700	30	100	11,900	150	-90			
Const., min'g & nat. resources	112,600	10,000	-8,900	250	60	40	70	30	0	140	10	0	450	40	10			
Manufacturing	514,600	-1,100	-10,500	450	0	40	330	10	-20	500	30	-10	3,400	0	-150			
Trade (wholesale & retail)	425,000	2,600	500	590	60	50	320	10	20	670	0	10	1,740	50	-50			
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	104,600	400	200	150	10	0	170	-10	0	200	10	0	330	-40	-50			
Financial activities	155,700	2,300	3,400	90	0	0	90	0	10	180	0	-10	770	10	10			
Education & health services	362,500	-600	6,900	460	10	0	360	20	-20	300	0	50	960	0	-10			
Leisure & hospitality	232,700	6,100	1,300	660	50	60	170	20	-10	250	-10	40	1,120	60	120			
Info, prof, bus. & other srvc	430,000	4,300	7,400	330	10	-80	120	0	-50	320	10	40	980	10	10			
Government	427,400	1,500	-800	1,250	20	50	1,630	0	90	1,150	-20	-30	2,100	20	20			
Civilian Labor Force**	3,074,500	-7,800	62,700	8,800	200	450	4,900	100	80	10,400	110	560	15,100	-130	180			
Employed	2,896,600	14,400	63,400	8,300	340	470	4,500	70	100	9,400	130	490	13,800	110	150			
Unemployed	177,800	-22,200	-710	440	-140	-20	470	30	-20	1,010	-20	70	1,300	-240	30			
Unemployment rate (%)	5.8	-0.7	-0.1	5.0	-1.8	-0.6	9.6	0.4	-0.5	9.7	-0.2	0.2	8.6	-1.5	0.1			
	Marathon						Oneida			Portage			Vilas			Wood		
	Apr 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Apr 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Apr 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Apr 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Apr 2003	1-month change	1-year change			
Total jobs, all indstries*	69,700	300	600	18,200	560	340	33,100	270	550	7,900	120	210	44,200	460	690			
Const., min'g & nat. resources	2,600	200	-100	1,280	230	120	940	150	-50	800	90	50	1,430	120	-40			
Manufacturing	18,000	100	400	1,380	0	-290	5,400	-40	140	380	-10	-60	7,800	70	-410			
Trade (wholesale & retail)	14,400	-100	0	3,800	50	-50	4,500	30	-390	1,280	40	10	6,300	70	-50			
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	2,800	0	-100	420	20	0	1,840	10	-10	100	0	-20	3,300	20	120			
Financial activities	4,300	0	-100	520	-30	0	4,000	-10	10	300	0	20	1,120	-10	30			
Education & health services	6,500	-100	0	3,100	-10	-10	3,000	50	110	710	20	50	11,000	40	670			
Leisure & hospitality	4,900	100	0	2,600	40	620	3,800	190	580	1,470	-80	180	2,800	190	270			
Info, prof, bus. & other srvc	8,000	0	200	2,400	190	-20	3,600	-30	-10	360	10	-230	5,000	0	250			
Government	8,200	100	300	2,800	60	-40	6,000	-80	170	2,500	60	220	5,500	-40	-150			
Civilian Labor Force**	77,100	-1,320	1,460	22,000	300	830	38,900	-450	1,220	11,900	160	560	41,700	-450	1,100			
Employed	73,300	-130	1,690	20,300	460	850	36,800	-40	1,200	10,800	240	450	39,100	180	1,230			
Unemployed	3,800	-1,200	-230	1,710	-160	-20	2,100	-410	20	1,160	-90	110	2,600	-620	-130			
Unemployment rate (%)	4.9	-1.4	-0.4	7.7	-0.9	-0.5	5.5	-1.0	-0.1	9.7	-0.9	0.5	6.2	-1.4	-0.5			

\*Includes jobs with employers in area. \*\* Includes labor force participants residing in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary.  
Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding.